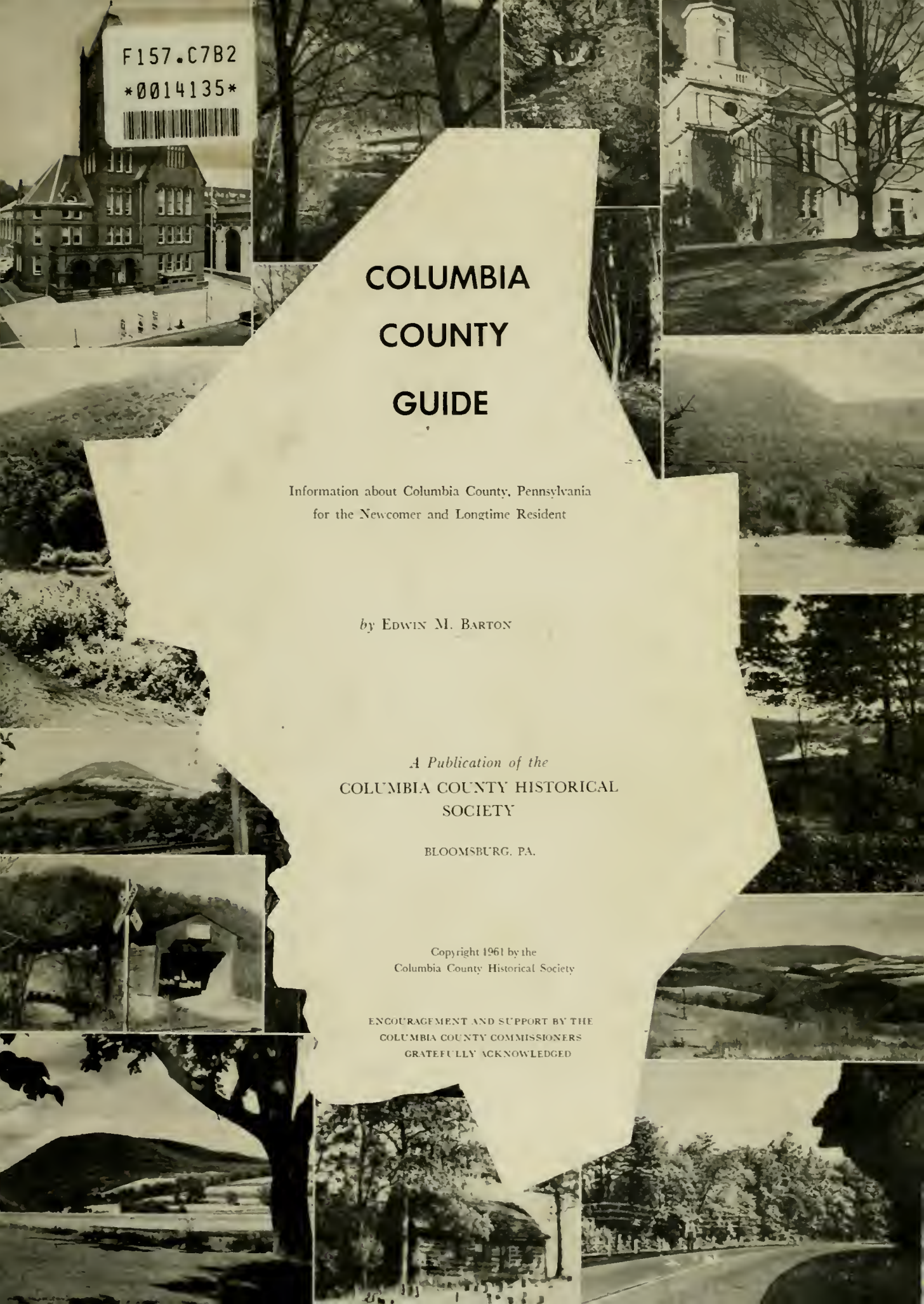




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COLUMBIA COUNTY GUIDE

Information about Columbia County, Pennsylvania
for the Newcomer and Longtime Resident

by EDWIN M. BARTON

A Publication of the
COLUMBIA COUNTY HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

BLOOMSBURG, PA.

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ENCOURAGEMENT AND SUPPORT BY THE
COLUMBIA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGED



RELIEF MAP OF COLUMBIA COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA
 SURROUNDING AREAS ARE ALSO INCLUDED. REPRODUCED FROM ARMY MAP SERVICE
 MAPS. USED WITH PERMISSION. BOUNDARIES OF COLUMBIA COUNTY, OTHER THAN
 STREAMS, HAVE BEEN EMPHASIZED BY ADDITIONAL INK LINES SUPERIMPOSED.



North Mountain

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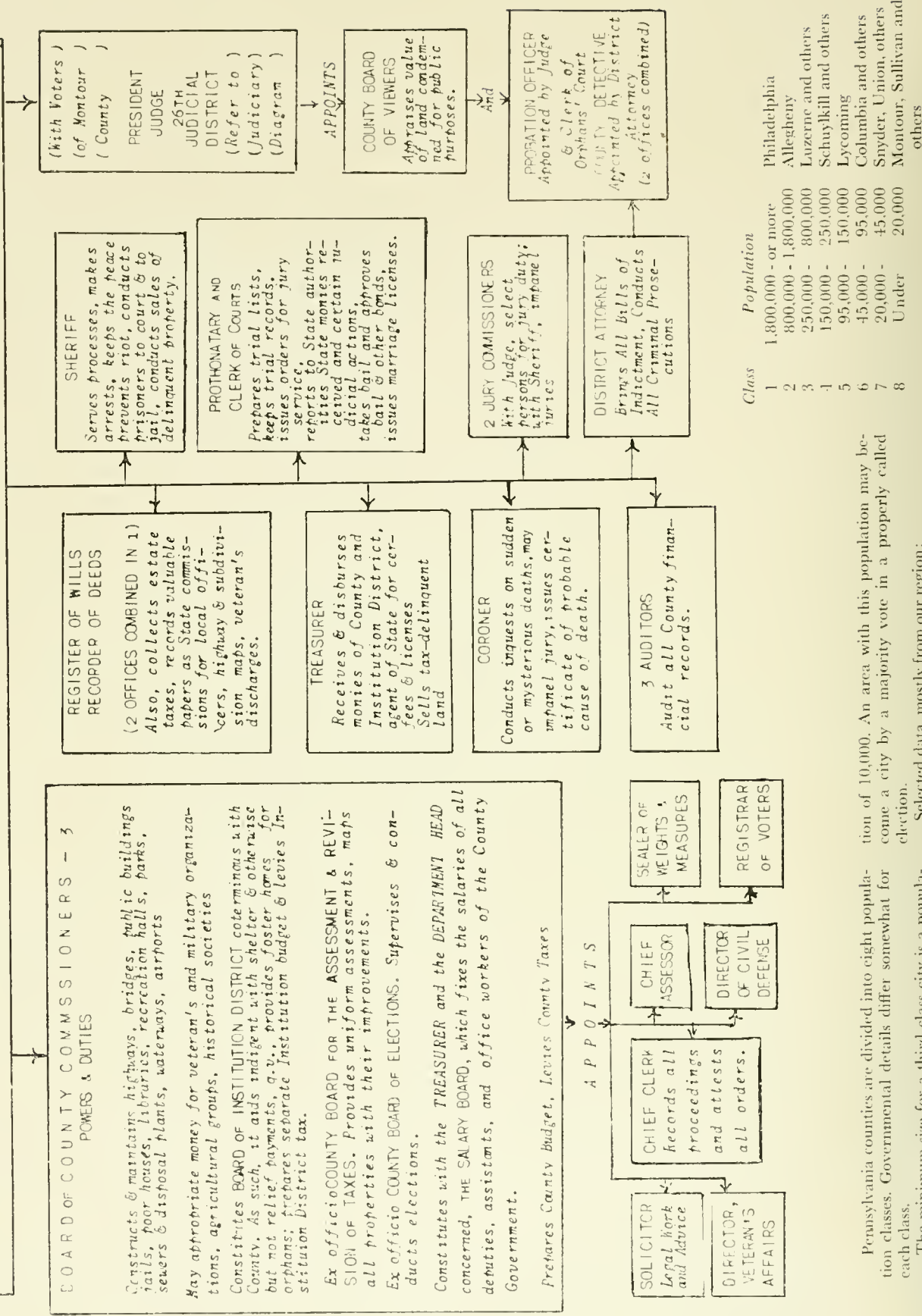
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Historical Society — Columbia County has an active historical society with museum and library in Bloomsburg. The Society holds meetings in all parts of the county. These deal with interesting topics of the recent as well as the more remote past. This, our current, effort, the *Columbia County Guide*, demonstrates the interest of the

Society in the present-day welfare of the county. Knowledge and understanding of the struggles and efforts embodied in our region's history, recent as well as remote, are a necessary foundation for civic loyalty and devotion, as well as community building.

Berwick Hospital

THE VOTERS OF COLUMBIA COUNTY ELECT:-



Pennsylvania counties are divided into eight population classes. Governmental details differ somewhat for each class.

The minimum size for a third class city is a population of 10,000. An area with this population may become a city by a majority vote in a properly called election.

Selected data, mostly from our region:

THE VOTERS OF BOROUGHS IN PENNSYLVANIA ELECT:-

THE BOROUGH COUNCIL Every borough must have at least 7 councilmen. If the borough is divided into wards, it has 2 councilmen per ward provided the result gives more than 7. In Columbia County only Berwick has more than 7, in its case, 8, elected 2 from each ward. In other boroughs councilmen are elected at large.

The Council elects its own President, who is acting Burgess in the latter's absence, but without magisterial powers.

POWERS & DUTIES: keep public thoroughfares open, protect the public health, preserve law and order, remove nuisances.

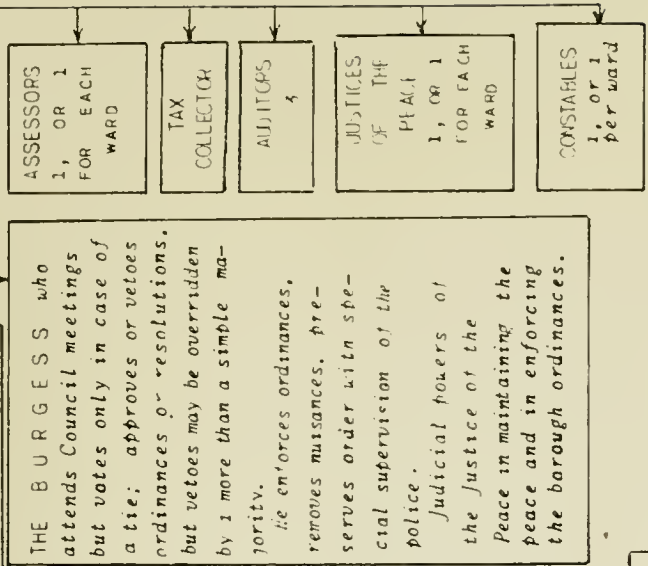
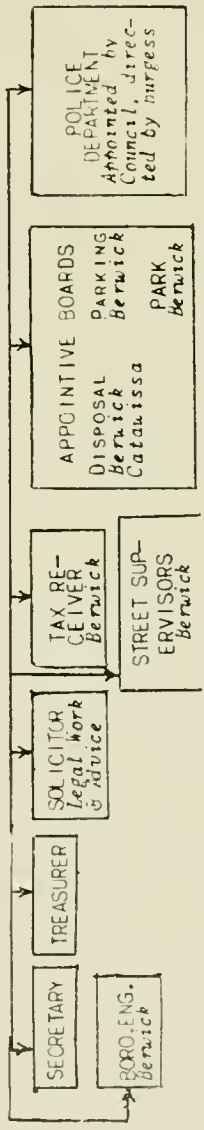
Permissible: Provide fire equipment & housing, zoning, parking, civil defense, recreation.

Enacts ordinances & resolutions on authorized matters

Prepares budget & levies taxes

Administration: Directly by Council or its committees or by appointed officers or boards, except as noted.

A P P O I N T S



THE BURGESS who attends Council meetings but votes only in case of a tie; approves or vetoes ordinances or resolutions, but vetoes may be overridden by 1 more than a simple majority.

He enforces ordinances, removes nuisances, preserves order with special supervision of the police.

Judicial powers of the Justice of the Peace in maintaining the peace and in enforcing the borough ordinances.

The powers and duties of Pennsylvania's Boroughs are prescribed by Pennsylvania's Borough Code.

THE VOTERS OF SECOND CLASS TOWNSHIPS IN PENNSYLVANIA ELECT:-

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, 3 FOR A 5 YEAR TERM, ELECTED IN ROTATION, 1 EVERY 2 YEARS

Powers & Duties: Constructs and maintains township roads, including bridges.

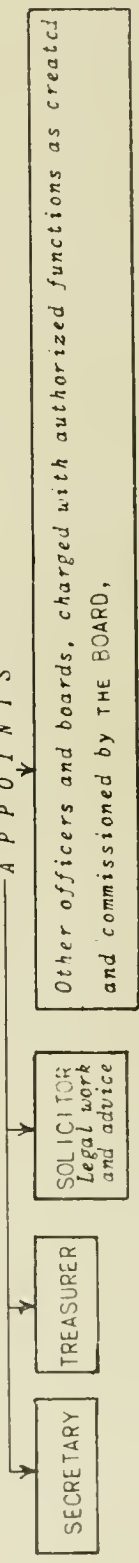
Permissible: Safety, employ police; fire protection by contributing equipment and housing; zoning; parking; abate nuisance; civil defense; sanitation; recreation.

The BOARD enacts ordinances and resolutions on authorized matters.

Administration: Directly or by committees or by officers or boards appointed by it.

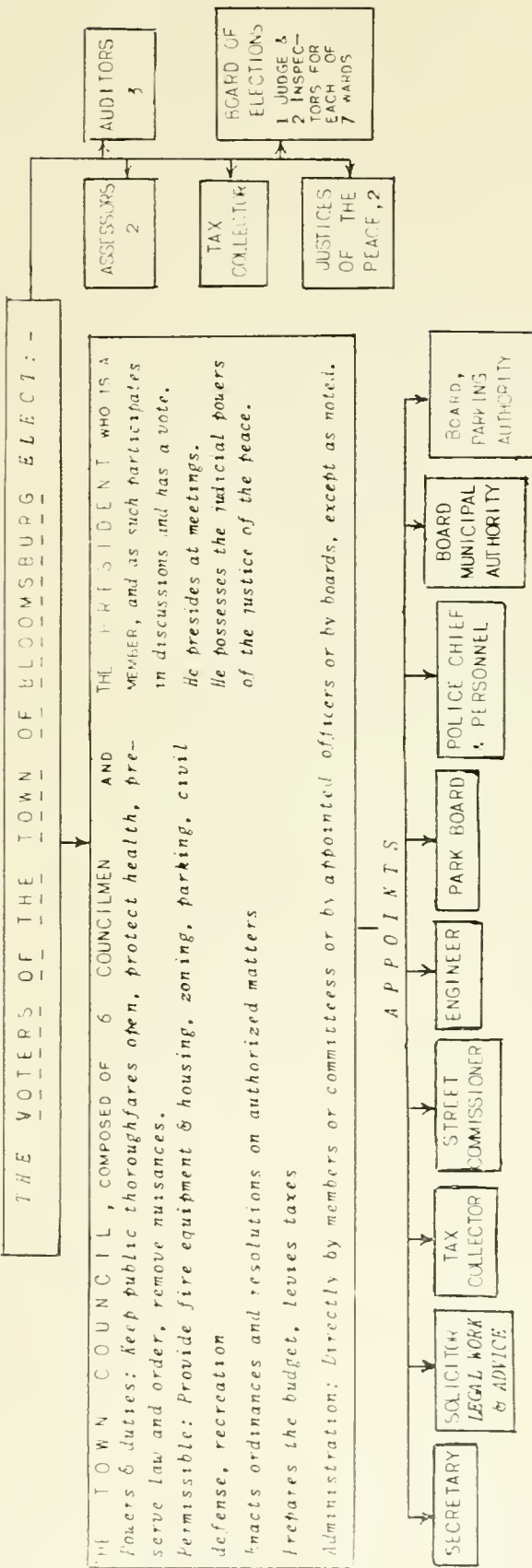
Prepares budget, levies taxes.

A P P O I N T S



Other officers and boards, charged with authorized functions as created and commissioned by THE BOARD,

W. A. , Town of, is in a special class of "Incorporated Towns," the only one. The form of government is prescribed by Act of Incorporation, March 11, 1870, as supplemented by acts or provisions of acts of the General Assembly made specifically applicable to "Towns".



LOCAL ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

The T W E N T Y - S I X T H J U D I C I A L D I S T R I C T is made up of COLUMBIA AND MONROE COUNTIES

THE PRESIDENT JUDGE, elected at large by voters of the two counties, holds court sessions quarterly at each county seat, Bloomsburg and Danville. The county courts are the COURT OF COMMON PLEAS, the COURT OF Oyer AND TENER AND GENERAL JAIL DELIVERY, the COURT OF QUARTER SESSIONS OF THE PEACE, the ORPHAN'S COURT, and the JUVENILE COURT. These courts are our primary courts of record. Cases on appeal from the Justices of Peace as well as the cases originating in the District Courts are heard. Appeals under certain specified conditions are made to the Superior Court and the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania. The President Judge appoints persons to fill unexpired terms of local officials.

THE JUSTICE OF PEACE has jurisdiction in minor civil cases (amount not over \$500 dollars). He has final jurisdiction of summary, i.e., designated minor offenses. In other criminal cases he binds over the accused for trial in the County Courts. Appeals may be taken to the District Court in certain specified cases.

*THE TWENTY-SIXTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT has adopted compulsory arbitration authorized by State law in civil cases where the amount involved is \$2,000 or less. In such cases the controversy is submitted to a board of three arbitrators chosen by the Clerk of Courts from the Bar Association in alphabetical order. The time and expenses of litigation in court trials are much reduced in such cases.

C O L U M B I A C O U N T Y S C H O O L S

V O T E R S i n C O L U M B I A C O U N T Y S C H O O L D I S T R I C T S (8 B o r o u g h s , 1 T o w n , 2 4 T o w n s h i p s) E L E C T : -

BOARD OF DISTRICT SCHOOL DIRECTORS

7 Directors in 3rd class districts, i.e., population 5,000 to 20,000; 5 Directors in 4th class districts, boroughs, and townships below 5,000 population, WHO construct District Budget, levy District taxes, may organize and administer bus schedules, OTHER FUNCTIONS of ADMINISTRATION in most Columbia County Districts: -

ARE DELEGATED TO: -

A JOINTURE, by which Member Districts conclude an agreement for governance and operation of Jointure Schools as a unit. Members of individual Boards make up Joint Board which establishes policies, chooses staff, provides building and equipment. Operation costs are prorated to pupil numbers; building costs to State established real estate values. Functions of the Board exclusive of the budget adoption may be delegated to a Joint School Committee, composed of one or more representatives of District Boards chosen by them from their own number, respectively. The Jointures are: BENTON: Benton and Stillwater Boro.; Benton, Fishing Creek, Jackson, and Sugarloaf Twp. BERWICK: Berwick and Briar Creek Boro.; Briar Creek Twp. with part of Salem Twp., Luzerne County. BLOOMSBURG: Bloomsburg Town and Beaver, Hemlock, Main, and Montour Twp. CENTRAL COLUMBIA COUNTY: Orangeville Boro.; Mifflin, Mt. Pleasant, North Centre, Orange, South Centre, and Scott Twp. MILLVILLE: Millville Boro.; Greenwood, Madison, and Pine Twp. SOUTHERN AREA COLUMBIA COUNTY: Catawissa Boro.; Catawissa, Cleveland, Franklin, Locust, and Roaring Creek Twp., with Ralpho Twp. of Northumberland County. Centralia Boro.'s tuition students accepted at Mt. Carmel, Northumberland County; while Conyngham Twp. is part of Ashland Jointure, Schuylkill County.

All School Directors of County make up C O U N T Y D I R E C T O R S S C H O O L C O N V E N T I O N , meeting once a year: -

WHICH CHOOSES: ->

COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS, who nominates Assistant County Superintendent; supervises County schools, reports conditions to State Department of Education; exercises educational guidance and leadership in the County

COUNTY BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS (5) from their number which inspects financial reports and budgets of Districts and Jointures; approves transportation routes; approves nominee for Assistant County Superintendent.

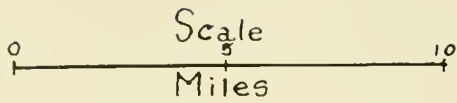
Union School Districts — Union school districts are encouraged by State legislation according to which supplemental subsidies granted by the State are increased by about fifty per cent over such subsidies granted to jointures. Individual districts are merged completely. Tax rates become uniform, one treasurer and one tax collector, and one school board serve the union district. The board is made up of one member from each political subdivision with two additional members elected at large. One budget provides for instruction pro-rata to the attendance and for bus pro-rata to numbers using the facility. Individual district obligations are merged to become the obligation of the union district.

The Columbia County School Districts in 1960-1961 had approximately the following enrollments — elementary (e), secondary (s), and total (t):

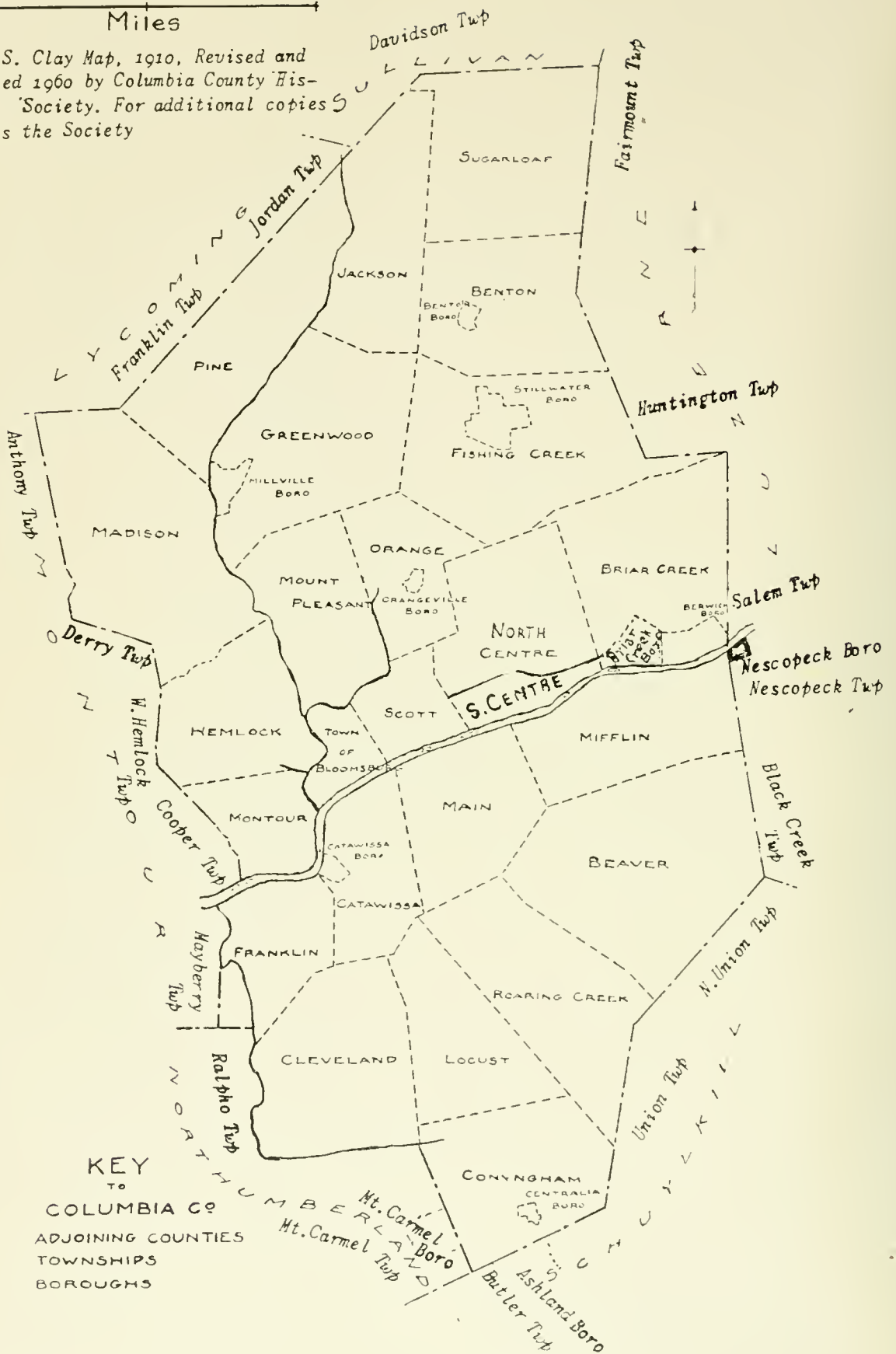
Ben Franklin	(e) 204	(s) 349	(t) 791
Benton Jointure	(e) 442	(s) 1879	(t) 3519
Berwick Jointure ...	(e) 1640	(s) 1132	(t) 2452
Bloomsburg Jc.	(e) 1320	(s) 892	(t) 1993
Central Joint.	(e) 1101	(s) 414	(t) 959
Millville Jc.	(e) 545	(s) 681	(t) 1540
Southern Jc.	(e) 859	(s) 5437	(t) 11548
TOTAL County ...	(e) 6111		

Bloomsburg State College — Founded as Bloomsburg Academy, 1839; 1959-1960 enrolled 1750 full-time students; 3000 anticipated by 1980. The campus school accommodates 200 additional elementary students. Undergraduate curriculums lead to the Bachelor degree; graduate courses lead to the Master's degree in education.

Parochial Schools Enrollments — Berwick: Sts Cyril and Methodius, 71; St. Mary's, 203; St. Joseph's 219. Bloomsburg: St. Columbus, 246.



Arthur S. Clay Map, 1910, Revised and published 1960 by Columbia County Historical Society. For additional copies address the Society





Columbia County Court Room

Pennsylvania Voter Qualifications — Persons 21 years of age of Pennsylvania birth, *ipso facto* citizens of United States and Pennsylvania. Residence qualifications: If moving into the district — from another Pennsylvania district, 2 mos.; from outside the State, 1 yr., except native born Pennsylvanians returning to the State, 6 mos.

Local and municipal elections in Pennsylvania are scheduled for years without Presidential or Congressional elections, i.e., in the odd numbered years.

Political Party — To qualify as a recognized Political Party in a county, one of its candidates in the next preceding election must have polled at least 5% of the votes cast for any elected candidate. Only the Democratic and Republican parties qualify as such in Columbia County.

Pennsylvania law recognizes a political party's political committee elected according to the rules of such party. The rules of both Democratic and Republican parties provide for the election at the spring primary election in

even numbered years of one committee man and one committee woman from each district, to hold office for 2 years, and to have charge of its party organization in the respective districts. A county committee includes all the district committee members plus the state committeeman, who has also been elected by party vote at the same primary. The county committee in the case of each party holds its Biennial Meeting in even numbered years at which meeting officers are chosen (chairman, vice-chairman), and other matters cared for.

Each party has an executive committee chosen according to its own rules. Each party must file its rules with the County Board of Elections. The rules then become a public document.

At the close of registration, September 19, 1960, registered voters included: 15,666 Democrats; 11,905 Republicans, 13 Prohibitionists, 256 non-partisan, and 8 independents.

COLUMBIA COUNTY TAXES
TAXES LEVIED BY COLUMBIA COUNTY TAXING BODIES FOR THE YEAR 1960

A POLITICAL DISTRICTS BOROUGH	B — REAL ESTATE, VILLAGES, ASSESSMENTS, LEVIES — B						C — OCCUPATIONS — C		D — PERSONAL PROPERTY — D		E — PER CAPITA — E		F — GRAND TOTAL & SUMMARY — F					
	County Political District	County Political District	County Political District	County Political District	County Political District	County Political District	County Political District	County Political District	County Political District	County Political District	County Political District	County Political District	County Political District	County Political District	County Political District	County Political District	County Political District	County Political District
TOWNSHIPS, 2ND CLASS																		
Benton	13.4	30	6	2	53.5	740,290	42,602	43.69	45,335	452.66	92,618.00	370.48	553	5.00	10.00	6,445	51,780.16	53.11
Berwick	10	25	0	2	43	14,594,650	618,972	46.81	640,410	5,171.26	1,130,057.77	4,520.25	9,153	5.00	10.00	81,930	767,488.20	57.55
Briar Creek	3	25	0	2	36	392,350	14,025	35.68	17,420	135.56	15,363.24	61.45	229	5.00	10.00	2,663	17,088.81	42.94
Catawissa	4.5	18.5	0	2	31	1,430,940	44,949	24.90	98,350	766.88	112,989.50	451.97	1,219	5.00	10.00	12,190	76,474.85	42.20
Centerville	10.5	39	6	2	63.5	378,060	22,007	16.93	64,400	515.20	296,875.58	1,187.50	890	7.50	7.50	13,350	39,059.70	27.37
Millville	7	25	0	2	41	867,310	35,860	37.27	50,250	420.00	43,299.48	573.14	539	2.00	10.00	6,738	43,273.19	45.36
Orangeville	8	16	0	2	32	307,140	9,928	22.07	19,770	158.16	31,862.11	127.44	257	1.00	12.50	3,470	13,583.50	31.31
Stillwater	4	22	0	2	34	155,310	5,213	27.01	8,550	68.40	10,419.13	41.58	110	15.00	15.00	1,650	6,973.08	36.13
Bloomburg (Town)	10.5	25	6	2	43.5	11,055,800	460,627	41.21	400,210	3,521.68	2,327,246.79	9,368.95	6,041	5.00	10.00	90,615	584,772.64	55.09
TOWNSHIPS, 3RD CLASS																		
Beaver	4	24	6	2	36	441,810	15,908	23.14	31,090	248.72	9,124.00	30.74	411	5.00	10.00	6,195	22,355.46	32.58
Benton	4.75	20	6	2	32.75	629,260	20,608	29.98	32,780	262.24	14,887.00	59.54	432	5.00	10.00	6,440	27,409.78	39.90
Briar Creek	2	16	6	2	26	1,736,670	45,154	21.94	45,154	645.57	152,692.72	650.77	1,046	5.00	10.00	15,690	62,139.34	33.12
Catawissa	4.5	10	6	2	22	488,610	10,744	18.76	24,490	149.92	18,258.50	73.03	325	3.00	10.00	4,225	15,246.95	26.61
Centre, N	3	19	6	2	30	534,390	16,038	28.85	27,920	223.50	14,332.40	57.33	363	5.00	10.00	5,445	21,757.69	33.73
Centre, S	2.5	19	6	2	26.5	1,253,190	33,978	30.20	54,260	474.00	353,403.55	1,453.86	690	5.00	10.00	6,900	42,765.94	38.01
Cleveland	2	15	6	2	25	713,020	17,822	23.04	34,420	275.36	43,050.00	172.20	457	5.00	10.00	6,855	25,127.56	32.46
Corryingham	9	50	6	2	67	675,045	45,222	40.32	65,770	590.56	4,098.75	20.00	870	5.00	10.00	8,700	45,468.56	49.16
Fishing Cr.	2	21	6	2	31	801,970	24,861	26.93	35,115	312.62	37,752.36	151.01	515	5.00	10.00	7,705	33,049.93	35.81
Franklin	3.5	15	6	2	26.5	472,010	12,508	26.43	21,230	169.84	55,413.82	221.66	264	3.00	12.00	3,810	16,709.50	39.38
Greenwood	2	22	6	2	32	1,115,110	35,681	28.52	59,390	475.12	73,184.00	293.28	716	15.00	15.00	11,190	47,642.40	38.08
Hemlock	3.5	23	6	2	34.5	1,046,250	36,094	27.81	64,910	439.28	4,150.59	166.19	799	5.00	10.00	10,935	47,636.47	36.70
Jackson	6	20	6	2	34	301,320	10,245	21.50	18,780	144.04	5,575.14	22.30	234	5.00	10.00	3,510	13,921.94	28.67
Locust	4	13.5	6	2	25.5	1,092,340	27,955	25.16	41,300	364.88	110,101.94	420.42	660	4.00	11.00	9,900	38,590.30	34.86
Madison	3	26	6	2	37	807,780	29,883	31.39	35,700	294.40	23,240.00	92.95	479	5.00	10.00	7,195	37,460.30	39.35
Main	2.5	27	6	2	37.5	423,590	15,389	28.34	28,420	195.56	17,289.00	69.04	322	5.00	10.00	4,330	20,983.40	38.08
Mifflin	3	18	6	2	29	1,125,580	34,351	20.66	65,150	521.21	37,535.41	150.14	872	2.00	10.00	10,284	45,536.42	27.64
Montour	1.5	26	6	2	35.5	1,138,750	40,426	40.93	41,740	324.68	14,101.95	56.40	548	15.00	15.00	8,220	19,036.48	49.53
Mt. Pleasant	2.5	21	6	2	31.5	493,830	15,558	23.77	24,890	199.12	18,184.00	72.4	325	12.50	12.50	4,000	19,590.86	30.32
Orange	3.5	21	6	2	32.5	1,977,340	60,179	36.77	117,110	111.78	21,300.00	1,007.20	233	5.00	10.00	3,495	20,826.08	47.53
Pine	1.3	27	6	2	36.3	376,310	13,845	21.27	27,220	217.75	164.37	190.57	233	5.00	10.00	3,495	19,357.76	29.74
Roaring Cr.	5	14	6	2	27	392,040	10,567	20.00	20,440	164.37	47,544.12	190.57	233	5.00	10.00	3,495	14,434.24	36.82
Scott	3.3	20.2	6	2	31.5	3,319,420	104,553	32.45	147,135	1,181.78	932,419.36	3,725.57	1,360	5.00	10.00	27,900	137,372.75	42.52
Sugarloaf	3.1	15	6	2	25.1	435,510	12,574	27.27	27,550	220.40	300.00	1.20	355	5.00	10.00	5,325	18,220.60	42.08
TOTAL OR SUMMARY, WHERE APPLICABLE																		
50,206,235						2,168,055		19,744.75	6,120,396.23	25,931.17	31,338	408,273	2,452,335.50	46.14				

Supplementary explanations and notes:

This table is based on tax duplicates or advance estimates of 1960 taxes. Actual collections according to experience closely approximate advance estimates. Data were secured from official sources and from a Pennsylvania County League Survey, 1960.

Column B7, "Tax duplicate" in this and other columns, by local name, means the tax rolls of taxes levied.

Column E1, "Taxable" means adult taxpayers.

Columns headed, "Per capita tax", E1, E2, E3, E4, is a special usage designating a tax of a set amount on each individual taxpayer, or "Taxable."

"Per capita" as used in Columns B6 and E2 is according to the dictionary definition, and means the burden of the given tax, or taxes, if distributed equally on every man, woman, and child, to be distinguished from per capita taxes noted above.

Column F1, "This Berwick total has been increased by a special occupation tax of \$10.00 levied in 1960 on all income earning occupations. The approximately \$50,000 collected from Borough taxpayers of this occupation tax, when added to the total of these other four taxes in this tabulation, increases the total from \$710,993.53 to \$760,993.53.

#This Catawissa total has been increased by a special wage tax in 1960 of .725%. As in the case of Berwick, the approximately \$18,500 collected in Catawissa, when added to the total of these other four taxes in this tabulation, increases the total from \$57,973.07 to \$76,473.07.

THE ECONOMY OF COLUMBIA COUNTY

CASH RECEIPTS FROM COLUMBIA COUNTY FARMS, 1958

Food Crops & Vegetables	Fruits	Horticultural Specialties	Forest Products	Dairy Products	Other Livestock Products	Poultry & Poultry Products	Total all Commodities	Government Payments	Total Cash Receipts
\$1,913,000	\$155,000	\$957,000	\$40,000	\$2,888,000	\$1,413,000	\$3,675,000	\$11,081,000	\$312,000	\$11,393,000

There were an estimated 1,600 farm families. Using these figures yields an average of \$6,925 per farm family without government payments, \$7,120 per farm family with government payments, gross figures in each case. (Derived from Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service, Annual Summary, 1959.)

TIMBER

ESTIMATED ANNUAL GROWTH ON COMMERCIAL FOREST LAND. (In thousands of board feet, except as indicated.)

	Hardwoods	Softwoods	Totals	Annual Cut	Annual Value Estimated at \$15.00 M	Surplus Growth over Cut or Deficit	Net Surplus
Saw Timber	1,660	1,612	3,272	12,825	\$192,375	- 9,553	
Pole Timber	37,956	3,768	41,724	5,260	78,900	36,464	26,911

The annual cut of Saw Timber, 12,825 M, plus Pole Timber, 5,260 M, gives 18,080 M, which conservatively estimated at \$15 per M gives an estimated \$271,200 in value. (Derived from Pennsylvania Statistical Abstract, 1960, pp. 40-41.)

MINERAL INDUSTRIES

Plants producing coal, sand, gravel, clays, and peat, had a value of production estimated at \$6,186,000 in 1956, latest date for which figures available. (Derived from Mineral Statistics of Pennsylvania, Department of Internal Affairs, April, 1959, p. 5.)

MANUFACTURING PLANTS IN COLUMBIA COUNTY

	No. of Plants	Capital Expenditures during 1959	Employees	Wages & Salaries	Value of Production and Related Activities	Value added by Manufacture
Food and kindred products	28	\$ 753,800	1,437	\$ 5,977,000	\$ 27,905,300	\$ 12,475,600
Textile mill products	14	909,600	3,227	12,302,300	49,713,500	21,486,800
Apparel and related products	17	173,700	1,842	4,826,300	12,676,700	6,838,400
Lumber and wood products	8	93,100	156	412,100	1,359,800	665,700
Printing and publishing	8	31,600	109	436,700	881,800	603,400
Stone, clay, & glass products	8	6,400	66	236,200	706,900	462,100
Fabricated metal products	7	106,500	231	1,098,600	3,653,900	1,519,600
Machinery, except electrical	4	8,900	41	154,400	583,000	249,500
All other industries	13	1,636,800	3,550	18,287,200	89,504,300	36,032,200
Total manufacturing industries	107	\$3,720,400	10,659	\$43,730,800	\$166,985,200	\$ 80,333,300

The following are leading plants in their respective communities and areas: Benton: Benton Industries (shirts), Otto G. Little & Co. (lumber products); Berwick: *American Car & Foundry Division of ACF Industries (transportation equipment), Clewell's Container Corp., Consolidated Cigar, Vaughn's Bakery, *Wise Potato Chip Co.; Bloomsburg: Bloomsburg Mills Inc. (weaving), *J. L. Dillon Inc. (Florists, growers and wholesalers), *Magee Carpet Co., Milco Undergarment Co.; U. S. Radium; Catawissa: Maxi Mfg. Co. (high pressure forged steel pipe unions and check valves), Regal Shirt Co.; Millville: *Girton Mfg. Co. (dairy equipment and supplies), Millville Lumber Products, Millville Planing; Orangeville: Orangeville Manufacturing Co. (floor and warehouse trucks). Making use of the county's basic mineral resources: The Alliance Clay Products, Mifflinville, uses the rock formation of Bloomsburg red shale for brick and tile. Several companies, including Bloomsburg Sand & Gravel Co., use deposits of glacial sand and gravel. The Baker Lime Quarry of Lime Ridge utilizes limestone formations. Coal deposits in the southern districts are still producing, largely by open pit mining.

* Among the leaders in the nation in their industrial group.

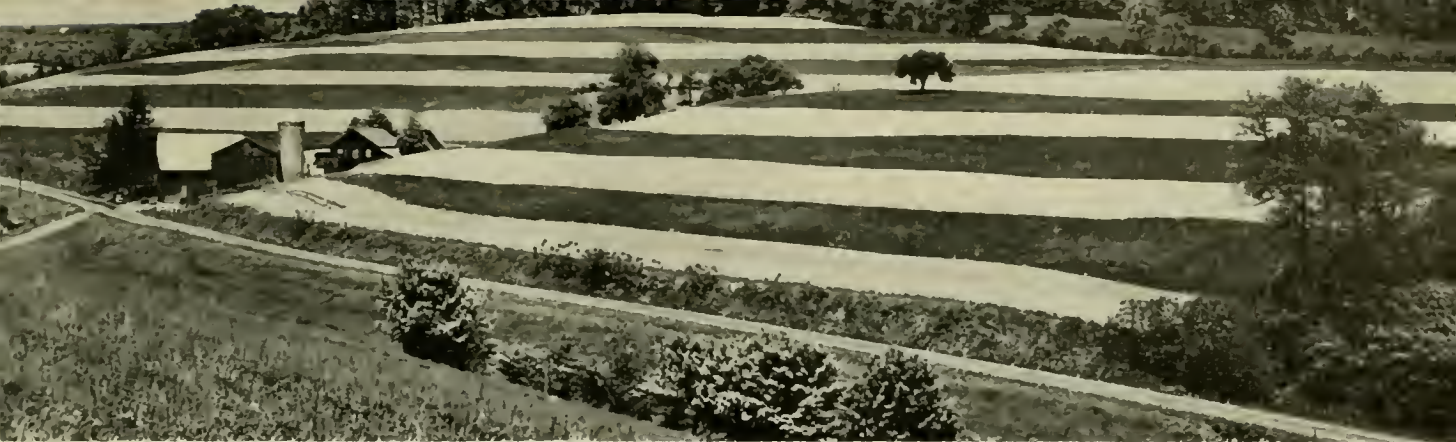
BLOOMSBURG STATE COLLEGE AS AN ASSET IN THE ECONOMY

1960 Data: Pay rolls, instructional staff of 106 received \$668,000; the non-instructional employees, including persons serving with the contract caterer, 140, received \$418,000; total 246 employees received \$1,086,000. Capital expenditures attributed to year 1960, estimated at \$828,800.

The "Tax Anything Law," is the popular designation of Act 481 of the 1947 General Assembly. By this law the General Assembly delegated its general taxing powers to local districts, although with important exceptions to be noted. By this legislation counties, townships, boroughs, towns, school districts, excluding certain classes of districts not existing in Columbia County, may levy taxes on any class of objects, instrumentalities, services, persons, not preempted by the Commonwealth. Excluded, however,

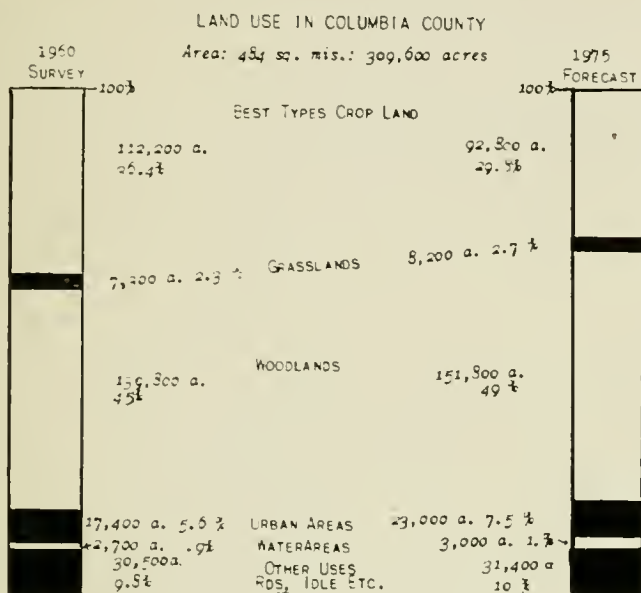
from such delegations are receipts of public utilities, products of manufacturing, lumbering, farming, and mining.

Authorities — Institutions called Authorities have been authorized by the General Assembly of Pennsylvania to make possible forms of capital construction when the borrowing capacity of a political subdivision is at or close to the legal limit of its borrowing capacity. Municipal authorities are created by counties, boroughs, towns and



Pictured above are the contour strips on the Frank Kisner farm, Mt. Pleasant Township, Bloomsburg R.D., taken in the spring of 1951. This picture was imprinted on envelopes to accompany the soil and

water conservation postage stamp in 1960 and sold from Post Offices all over the United States.



COLUMBIA COUNTY'S LAND POTENTIAL

117,000 acres in Columbia County are potentially of the best quality crop land, level or gently sloping land of high productivity. Only about three fourths are so utilized.

About 31,000 are potentially grass land, although only about one-fourth is used for this purpose.

About 19,000 acres are best suited for trees and grass. 43,000 acres are potential woodland.

About 300 acres are too stony for any use except wild life. Land use data by courtesy Col. Co. Soil Conservation Office.

and constructs the facility following which lease-back and debt service provisions are similar to those of the Municipal Authority.

Existing Authorities and Purposes — BERWICK MUNICIPAL providing for the Parking and for sewage disposal: BLOOMSBURG, Park, Municipal (for sewage and trash disposal) parking: CATAWISSA MUNICIPAL. (water and sewer) : MILLVILLE, municipal water.

SCHOOL AUTHORITIES: State Public School Authority helped local districts to build: Millville high school and elementary school in Pine Township; Hemlock-Montour Jointure to build the William W. Evans Memorial school; Roaring Creek Valley Jointure to build the Numidia elementary school. The existing authorities are: Benton Area Joint School Authority, the Bloomsburg School Authority, the Central Area Columbia County Joint School Authority, the Fishing Creek Valley (Benton area) Joint School Authority, the Southern Area Columbia County School Authority.

The Geography of Columbia County—Columbia County, north and south, extends from the rugged escarpments of North Mountain to a group of parallel mountain ridges at the extreme south. Little Mountain, Big Mountain, and Locust Mountain.

Twelve miles south of North Mountain, jutting up from the surrounding low lands, is Knob Mountain. This is really the abrupt termination of a great "V" shaped mountain extending eastward, the southern arm making Lee Mountain, the northern arm, Huntington Mountain. Another ten miles southeasterly brings knob-like Catawissa Mountain, also in form resembling a "V." Its northern arm, after the interruption of the Mainville Gap, becomes Nescopeck Mountain. The southern arm, after a broad half circle, becomes Little Mountain and extends far west beyond the limits of the county. In the open end between the Nescopeck Mountain and Catawissa Mountain are to be found a hogback mountain, McCauley, and farther south of it, Buck Mountain. The general trend of these mountains, with exceptions as noted, is slightly north of east to south of west.

Just west of Berwick, a moderate hill emerges from the general level, and becomes higher as it extends west, becoming a full scale mountain west of our county. "Turkey Hill," north of Bloomsburg, is actually part of this general formation called Montour ridge.

(GEOGRAPHY Continued on page 12)

school districts. Such authorities issue bonds, condemn land and construct specified improvements: sewage and disposal plants, park planning areas, bridges, schools or school facilities, and others. Administration may be directly by the authority or it may lease back the facility to the creating governmental subdivision or school district in return for a rental sufficient to cover expenses and debt service. If administered directly by that Authority, financing is on a fee for service basis.

The Pennsylvania Authority is a unique institution. The Authorities can generally borrow money only on interest rates about one-half to one per cent higher than districts creating them can borrow. There is also a State Public School Building Authority which the local school district may choose as the construction agency for a given school facility, in which case this state authority issues the bonds

1840 1850 1860 1870 1880 1890 1900

Starting before 1810 roads and bridges for horse drawn traffic

River transportation before 1800, declining after coming of canals and railroads

Canals from 1832 till 1900

1854 Railroads come to Columbia County

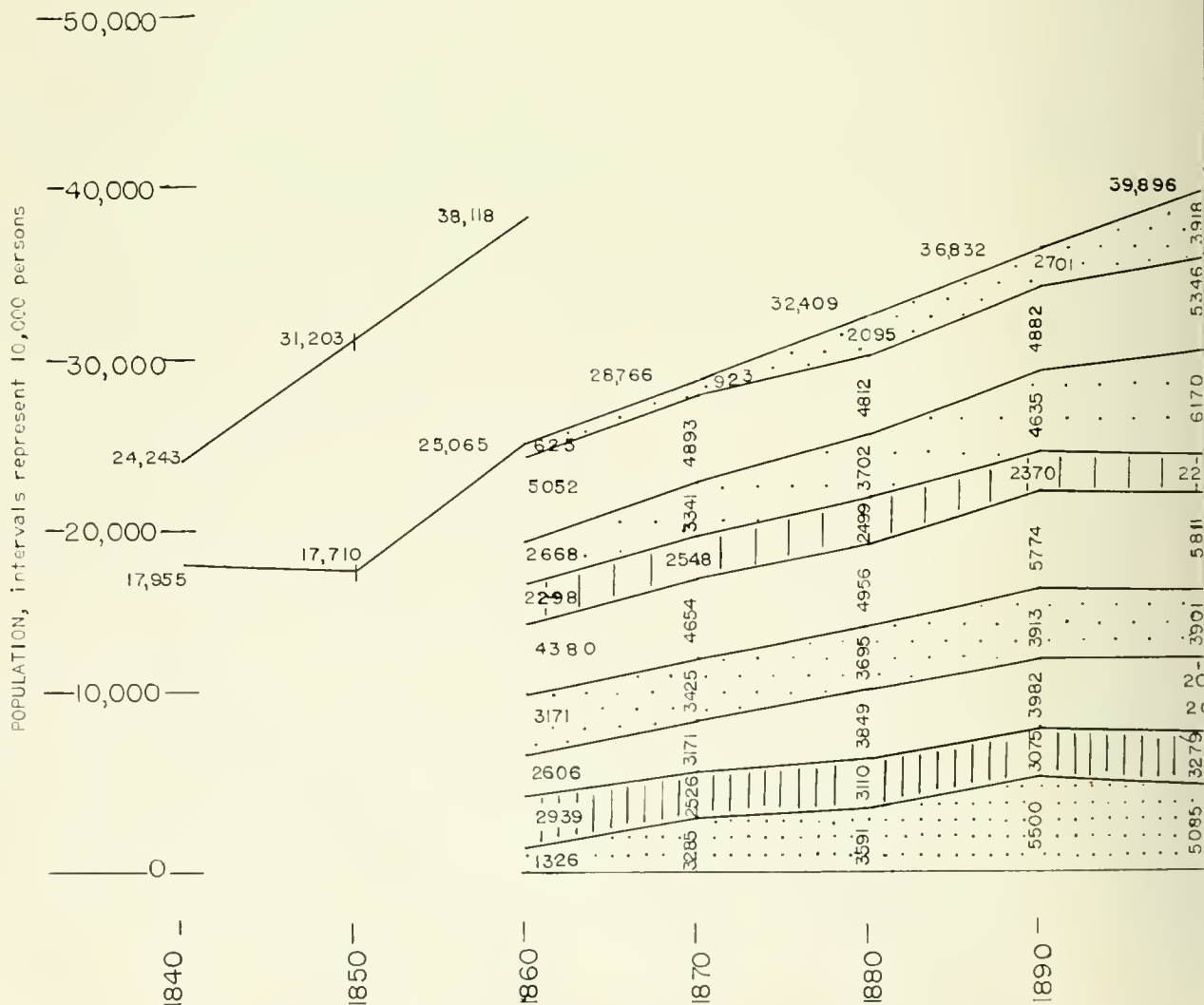
Farm machinery becomes widespread developing

Predominately local industries producing for local markets

Local iron mines support foundries and furnaces

Academies, esp. Bloomsburg Lit. Institute which grows into Normal School

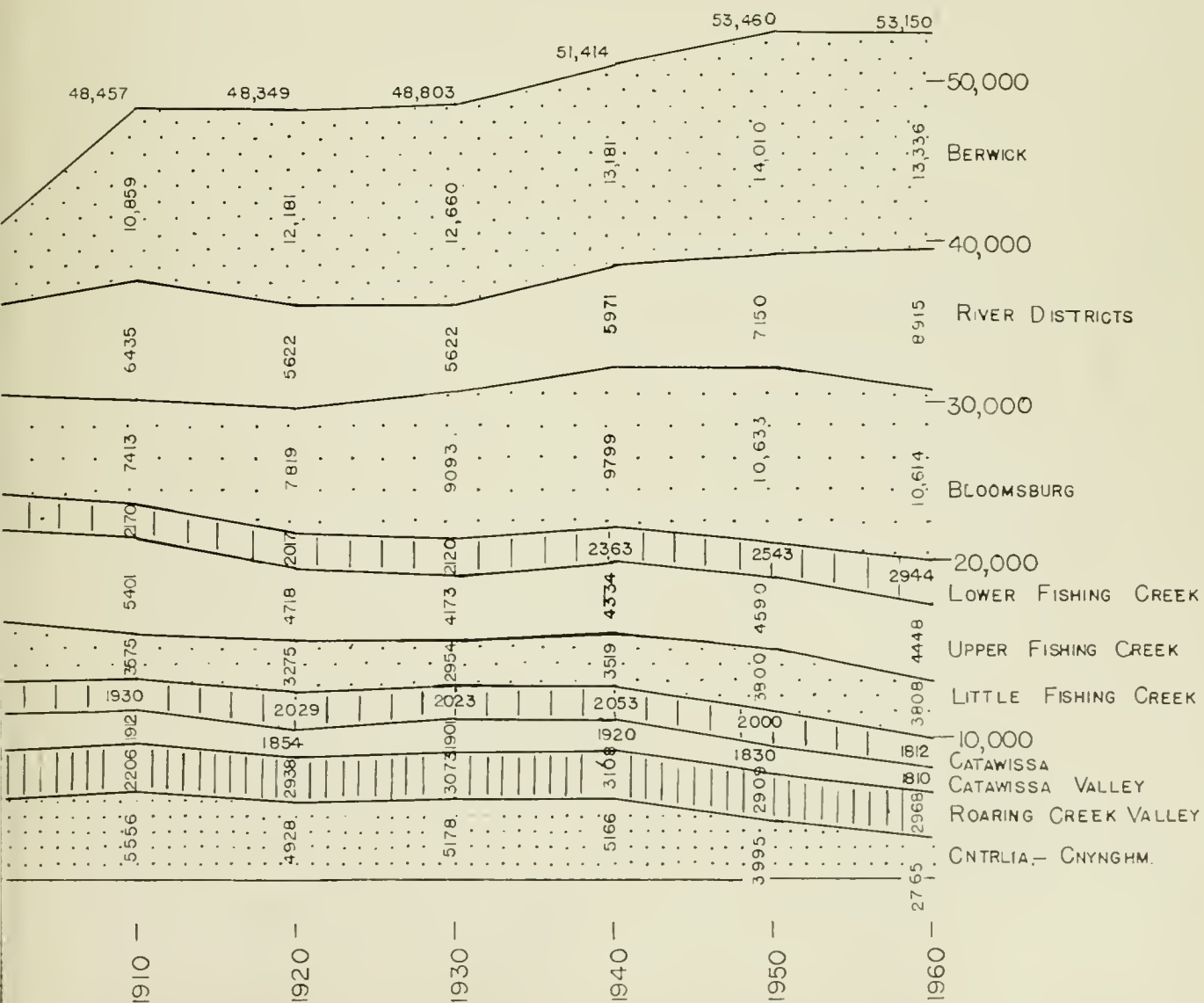
Anthracite mining, in



om horse drawn to steam then motor powered, also grows in variety

then to Teachers College then to State College

cline after 1940





Old House, Hemlock Township

(GEOGRAPHY Continued from page 9)

Viewed from the side, these mountains for the most part have a long level profile of a fairly uniform height. North Mountain at places reaches 2,300 or 2,400 feet above sea level; the others mentioned up to 1,700 or 1,800 feet. However, the mountains reach only about 1,000 to 1,500 feet above the valley floor.

A lower group of elevations spread widely between these mountain ridges. They reach heights of possibly 800 to a thousand feet, but only four to six hundred feet above the valley floors. Their summits for the most part form fine rolling hilltop farms, except where streams have carved deep valleys with steep, sometimes precipitous sides. The stream bottom lands provide farms as rich as might be desired.

(GEOGRAPHY Continued on page 14)

History — The powerful Susquehannock Indians, who at one time controlled the entire Susquehanna Valley, had, by the time of William Penn, succumbed to attacks of many enemies, white and red, as well as the white man's diseases. Their Iroquois conquerors, the Five Nations of the Mohawk Valley, allowed several wandering tribes to occupy our region. In 1768 by the Treaty of Stanwix the Iroquois sold a vast area embracing our area of Pennsylvania to the heirs of William Penn. This sale was against the wishes of the occupying groups, chiefly the Delawares, and partly explains Indian hostilities to come later.

A few settlers without legal authorization, "squatters," along with fur traders, had already come into our region. After this treaty, settlers migrated in considerable numbers. Settlers from Connecticut claiming the Wyoming Valley region and others from eastern Pennsylvania clashed in armed conflicts with bloodshed. The conflict was finally settled by Decree of Trenton, 1781. The Revolution also brought Tory-Patriot conflicts to our region accompanied with frontier forays, battles, captures, death, and destruction at the time of the attacks on Wyoming Valley to the north. With the end of the Revolution, 1783, migration surged into our region fostered by a fever of land speculation.

Soon the isolated settlers' cabins received neighbors, farms were cleared and pioneering changed to a more settled agriculture. In 1772 Northumberland County was set up including a vast area north and west from Sunbury. County after county was cut off; Columbia in 1813, with a name reminiscent of the then popular patriotic song, "Columbia, the Gem of the Ocean." Dissatisfied with the

location of the county seat near the western border in Danville, 30 years of agitation led to its removal to Bloomsburg in 1848. This in turn led to further dissatisfaction until the county of Montour with Danville as the county seat was set up in 1850.

Further history of the county is related to the chart on the preceding two pages. The grouping of districts on this chart: Berwick: Berwick Boro.; River Districts; Briar Creek Boro., Briar Creek, Mifflin, No. Centre, So. Centre, Scott Twp.; Bloomsburg: Bloomsburg Town; Lower Fishing Creek: Hemlock, Montour, Mt. Pleasant Twp.; Upper Fishing Creek: Benton, Orangeville, Stillwater Boros., Benton, Fishing Creek, Jackson, Orange, Sugarloaf Twp.; Little Fishing Creek: Millville Boro., Greenwood, Madison, Pine Twp.; Catawissa: Catawissa Boro. (Earlier part of Catawissa Valley); Catawissa Valley: Beaver, Catawissa, Main Twp.; Roaring Creek Valley: Cleveland, Franklin, Locust, Roaring Creek Twp.; Centralia-Conyngham: Centralia Boro., Conyngham Twp.

Like all frontier or pioneer communities, the pressing need was transportation to find an outlet for the surplus production, timber and timber products, farm crops and livestock, and the wealth still to be derived from the wildlife of stream and forest. Land transportation first by pack horse, then with the coming of turnpikes and bridges, by horse drawn vehicles was in each case slow and costly. At stream and river freshet times canoes, then Durham boats, clumsy arks and clumsy rafts, took cargoes, including the valuable timber of which they were constructed, all combined worth thousands of dollars, to downriver markets, but at bitter costs in losses of life, cargoes, and boats, from river hazards. Improvements were demanded. The North Branch canal started to function for our region in 1832, and gave our region access far up the branches into New York and to the Atlantic Ocean ports, excepting during the winter months. The railroads reached us in 1854, and after 20 or 30 years their competition challenged the canals, which finally succumbed in 1900. And now the railroads in turn are fighting for their lives in competition with the newer automotive and air forms of transportation. Transportation improvements made it possible for our region to exploit its endowments of natural resources. In addition, local industries producing largely for local markets were able to find outlets for their surpluses in the metropolitan regions. Records are meager, but large amounts of timber must have been boated and rafted down the river.

In 1822 iron ore was discovered in the hills north and west of Bloomsburg. Smelting furnaces sprang up, first using charcoal derived from forests and then later anthracite coal. Bloomsburg became a great iron town. Two furnaces and associated industries producing pig iron and fabricated iron products made Bloomsburg a bustling manufacturing town with railroad and canal taking out its products. By 1890 the more accessible ores had been exhausted and the remnants could not support an industry in competition with the richer resources from the Lake Superior region.

In the late decades of the nineteenth century, Williamsport became the lumber capitol of the world. The operations of its Central Pennsylvania Lumber Company extended to embrace the untouched forests of the North Mountain region, north Columbia County extending into Sullivan. For a brief time until the forests were exhausted

(HISTORY Continued next page, column 2)

Local Government Units of Columbia County With Recent Population Figures

1960 Data from Preliminary Releases of United States Census.
Summer of 1960

Columbia County has nine municipalities. Ranked according to population, they are:

Municipality	1950 Population	1960 Population	Gain + Loss -
1. Berwick Borough	14,010	13,336	- 674
2. Bloomsburg, Town	10,633	10,614	- 19
3. Catawissa Borough	2,000	1,812	- 188
4. Centralia Borough	1,986	1,427	- 559
5. Benton Borough	890	975	+ 85
6. Millville Borough	878	954	+ 76
7. Briar Creek Borough	348	398	+ 50
8. Orangeville Borough	424	437	+ 13
9. Stillwater Borough	189	193	+ 4

The County has twenty-four second class townships. Ranked according to population they are:

Township	1950 Population	1960 Population	Gain + Loss -
1. Scott	2,258	3,231	+ 973
2. Briar Creek	1,546	1,876	+ 330
3. Mifflin	1,478	1,640	+ 162
4. Hemlock	1,093	1,298	+ 205
5. Greenwood	1,306	1,251	- 55
6. South Centre	842	1,125	+ 283
7. Conyngham	2,009	1,108	- 901
8. Locust	1,182	1,107	- 75
9. Montour	801	990	+ 189
10. Madison	942	952	+ 10
11. Fishing Creek	904	923	+ 19
12. Cleveland	826	774	- 52
13. Benton	747	687	- 60
14. Beaver	776	686	- 90
15. Mount Pleasant	649	656	+ 7
16. Pine	674	651	- 23
17. North Centre	678	645	- 33
18. Catawissa	502	573	+ 71
19. Main	552	551	- 1
20. Orange	387	440	+ 53
21. Sugarloaf	625	433	- 192
22. Franklin	456	425	- 31
23. Roaring Creek	445	392	- 53
24. Jackson	424	360	- 64
COUNTY TOTAL	53,460	53,150	- 310

Municipality	1950 Population	1960 Population	Gain + Loss -
Montour County (with Columbia County) forming Twenty-Sixth Judicial District	16,001	16,700	+ 699
Salem Township,* Luzerne County (Partly in Berwick School Jointure)	2,859	3,281	+ 422
Nescopeck Borough,* Luzerne County	1,907	1,924	+ 17
Nescopeck Township,* Luzerne County	694	639	- 55
Ralpho Township, Northumberland County, part of Southern Area Columbia County, School Jointure	2,051	2,228	+ 177

* Luzerne County Units closely associated with Berwick's trading and commuting area.



Looking up Coles Creek Valley to North Mountain.

(HISTORY Continued from preceding page)

in 1910, the now somnolent community of Jamison City lived up to its pretentious name of city, with concentrated lumber and tan bark industries. Our southern townships, Beaver and Conyngham, but chiefly Conyngham, exploited resources in anthracite coal in the late nineteenth century. Those at Beaver are worked but little, if at all. The Conyngham-Centralia coal measures still are yielding, but on a reduced scale and largely by open pit mining.

Since the turn of the century with the reduction or exhaustion of most of our primary resources, the economic base of the county has come largely to rest on the skill and enterprise of industrial leaders who have brought industries to our county, diversified to a degree, but not sufficiently so. Consult the table on page 8. The efforts of leaders finally placed in our midst an important institution of higher learning in its dollars and cents impact on our region as well as in its educational influence, the Bloomsburg State College.

Civil War days were not only a time of prosperity. Critics, sometimes bitter in their denunciations, were opposed to the Lincoln administration. Alleged threats of resistance resulted in the occupation of the county by soldiers. Violent or outrageous incidents took place to the shame of both factions.

The disturbances in the anthracite regions under the name of Molly McGuire's in the late 1860's resulted in violence in the southern end of our county with murder trials, convictions, and executions by hanging.

Now in the mid-century decades, economic growth has been slowed down. Leaders are working to overcome this situation and are encouraged by the promise of the Keystone Shortway, part of US Interstate Rout 80, which is to pass directly through the center of the county and should overcome permanently our transportation difficulties.

A study of the Population Chart, pages 10 and 11, shows remarkably small changes in population numbers from 1860 to the present. The tendency of the districts near our larger centers of population, see Table page 12, to increase at the expense of the built-up sections, is especially evident in the river districts and Salem Township, Luzerne County, adjacent to Berwick, and also in the townships adjacent to Bloomsburg. Scott Township's gain is especially marked.



Approaching Berwick

Policing — Pennsylvania takes great pride in its State Police, one of the first such bodies created, and still one of the best. The Bloomsburg Barracks has Columbia County as its complete district. It is staffed by one sergeant, one corporal and eight troopers. In districts without organized police, the State Police provide policing: enforcement of traffic and criminal law and the maintenance of peace. Bloomsburg, all the boroughs excepting Briar Creek and Stillwater, and also the townships of Conyngham and Montour, have organized police forces. In such districts the State Police give assistance on request of the head of the local department. The different forces cooperate closely with each other. The constables have powers of arrest and serve papers of the justices of the peace.

Sealer of Weights and Measures — Columbia County's Sealer of Weights and Measures in 1960 examined for accuracy 2,425 scales and measures in the county, of which 42 were adjusted and 30 condemned. 23,829 packaged commodities were checked, of which 2,200 were condemned. Recently, prosecutions for fraudulent violations have been rare.

(GEOGRAPHY *Continued from page 12*)

The generally east-west trend of mountains and valleys have been able to control the stream flow only in part. The Susquehanna river, North Branch, after cutting through mountains south from Shickshinny to our east, flows westward in a channel on softer rock formations for about twenty miles. Then it abruptly deserts the easy channel down Dutch Valley in order, it would seem, to cut through the rocky formations at the south thus forming the Catawissa Narrows. Then in a few miles it cuts back again through the same difficult formations to reach the previously deserted valley at Danville.

Fishing Creek, larger than many streams called rivers, along with its many tributaries, takes its rise in the extensive North Mountain region. From this area, these streams flow south, cutting "across the grain" of hard and soft layers. The results are that at some places there are broad, gentle valleys, at others the harder rocks make narrow valleys, almost canyons. One interesting exception to the southward trend is the steplike pattern of Fishing Creek. Its south-bound current absorbs Huntington Creek from the east at Forks and then flows west until, past Knob Mountain, it can again turn south. Twice again the stream is deflected to the west when it strikes Turkey Hill below Lightstreet, and then at the Red Shale cliffs at Bloomsburg, until it merges with the River at the "Point," between Bloomsburg and Rupert.

Briar Creek, the only other considerable stream on the "North Side" of the county, similarly cuts through obstructing rock formations to join the river at the community of the same name.

Catawissa Creek, rising east of Aristes, in the far south, follows a course on the outside of the horse-shoe curve of Catawissa-Little Mountain. In doing so, it seems also to prefer the "hard way," cutting its valley through numerous rock formations finally to find its outlet in the river at Catawissa.

The Roaring Creek branches, north and south, spend their upper courses differently. The northern branch drains the rich farming land of Roaring Creek Valley, although some of its sources lie in the horseshoe mountain rim at the east. The southern branch rising in the deep and wooded Brush Valley, after yielding of its water to the impounding dams of the Shamokin Water Company, cuts brusquely through Little Mountain at Bear Gap, flows north, across the "grain" like its northern county counterparts, picks up the northern branch, and then the combined streams cuts through bordering hills in rapids and waterfalls to join the river at what used to be called Roaring Creek Station.

This combination of streams and meadows, ridges, cliffs, gaps, and knobs, gives the Columbia County scenery a wide variety that will take many hours of delightful touring to enjoy to the full. Much of the County's history, mineral, agricultural, and timber resources are to be understood from these basic geographic facts. Its transportation problems and advantages also become understandable.

Enjoying Our County and Its Scenery — In Columbia County are to be found these routes: Federal US 11; State roads, designated Legislative routes numbered in the 19,000's; County; and Township roads.

The scenery of Columbia County provides a wealth of beautiful broad vistas, distant landscapes, and rugged mountain terrain. View the broad expanse of the North Branch of the Susquehanna as it enters the county at Berwick with a backdrop of Council Cup (*Kanzel Kopf* or pulpit head). At Bloomsburg the broad flood plain formed by the river and Fishing Creek are rimmed with the sharp bluffs of River Hill. The river makes its way through a sharp gorge, the Catawissa Narrows, affording a view of distant Catawissa Mountain. At the south is somber Brush Valley; at the north the impressive mass of North Mountain.

We here outline for you nine circle tours. None is mentioned that does not have many picturesque views, if not grand and arresting vistas. If road turnings are missed, there will still be alternative and rewarding prospects. In each tour, any point other than the one suggested may be made the beginning. Each trip in reverse direction adds other unexpected delights. Many points of historic interest



Airplane view of central Berwick.

will also reward the tourist. Advertisers have listed recommended dining places.

TRIP 1. Northeastern tour: In 1807 the Susquehanna and Tioga Turnpike Company was organized to build a road north from Berwick to Tioga, continuing the turnpike from Lehigh, constructed in 1787. This route went north over Lee and Huntington mountains to modern Jonestown then farther through part of Fishing Creek Township to Luzerne County's Huntington and Fairmount townships and on northward to Elmira (earlier called Newton, New York). Take Leg. Rt. 19,040, then No. 894 over Huntington Mt. to Jonestown and Huntington Creek. Huntington Mountain, Creek, and Township carry the name of a distinguished Connecticut statesman and jurist, signer of the Declaration of Independence, Samuel Huntington, and thus recall the important influence exerted by Connecticut in the settlement of our region.

(SCENIC TOURS *Continued on page 19*)

Library Facilities in Columbia County include free public libraries in Berwick, Bloomsburg, and Orangeville. Columbia County is also unique in having one of 26 traveling libraries in the State. Its headquarters are at the Bloomsburg Public Library and it provides books and magazines for 24 stations: (Bendertown, Benton (3 stations); Briar Creek, Derrs, Espy (2 stations); Greenwood, Jerseytown, Light Street, Millville (2 stations); Numidia (2 stations); Orangeville Library, Pine Summit, Waller (2 stations); Zehners, Iola, Roaring Creek Valley, Central, Stillwater, and Fernville.

Youth Services — The Columbia-Montour Council of Boy Scouts of America serves Columbia and Montour Counties generally with Luzerne county neighboring Benton and Berwick, and Riverside, Northumberland County, near Danville. Eight hundred adult leaders aid 2,350 boys in 188 Cub, Scout, and Explorer units. Camp Lavigne in Sugarloaf Township provides the highest standard of camping facilities. The central office at Bloomsburg serves the three districts of Green Briar, Berwick area, Fishing Creek, Bloomsburg Area, and Montour, Danville area.

The Columbia County Council, Girl Scouts, Inc., serves

our county with its central office in Bloomsburg. Five hundred adult leaders aid 1,400 girls in 67 active units. Camp Creasy near Bloomsburg is used for day camping, especially for the Brownies, and Camp Louise, on a splendid 180 acre mountain site south of Jonestown, recently acquired, is in use with further development pending.

In 4-H work, Head, Heart, Hand, and Health, boys and girls, 10-20, are trained in skills and citizenship. The Columbia County Program is one of the strongest in the state. Our 1,000 participants, more or less, frequently win distinction in district, state, and national contests. Leaders are well distributed over the County.

The Berwick YMCA serves men as well as boys. A program of indoor and athletic games and other activities are made possible by gymnasium and swimming pool and other facilities. A comparable program is available to women. There is a men's dormitory. Fees are moderate. Approximately 500 enjoy the program.

The Bloomsburg Youth Center, initiated by the Kiwanis Club, provides a broad indoor recreational program for junior-senior high school youths with paid adult leadership, and serves about 500 boys and girls.

Regular Enlistments — All the armed services — Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine, Coast Guard — accept volunteers within the established quotas. Reserve enlistments in each of the services are also possible under similar arrangements. The Reserve enlistments require 6 months of full time basic training followed by a stated time in the Reserve, usually 3 years. Reserve personnel must give 2 weeks of active duty each year plus 48 training sessions, approximately 100 hours, each year in the vicinity of the home region. Enlistments in the National Guard are under requirements similar to the active reserve in the armed services. The armed services maintain enlistment offices at Bloomsburg, and the National Guard at Berwick and Danville. The Berwick Armory includes the 1068th and 1069th Transportation Companies and the Armory at Danville, the Howitzer 104th Armored Cavalry. Women may enlist in the Auxiliary units of each service for periods of two, three, or four years.

The Selective Service System of the United States is represented in the County by the local Board No. 50, made up of five members appointed by the President of



Mountain view.

the United States. The office is headed by the Clerk chosen by the State Director of the Selective Service under Federal Civil Service regulations. Male youths within five days after their eighteenth birthday must register in the Clerk's office in the Court House, or at other designated places, currently Berwick High School; John May's residence, Centralia; and Catawissa High School. Quotas assigned to Columbia County are filled according to date of birth, the oldest first, from eligible lists. The Board determines eligibility according to established rules. The Clerk carries out the decisions. The office registers about 400 annually.

United Funds — The Berwick United Fund area includes Columbia County west as far as Ft. Jenkins Road, Mifflin Township, Nescopeck, Nescopeck rural routes, Wapwallopen, and most of Salem Township, Luzerne County. The Columbia County United Fund includes the rest of Columbia County excepting, also, Conyngham-Centralia districts.

General Hospitals are located at both Berwick and Bloomsburg. Each serve their respective municipalities as well as neighboring communities. At Danville is the Geisinger Memorial Hospital. Besides serving as a general hospital for the Danville area, this institution provides for the entire region the more specialized surgical and medical services to be found usually only in large metropolitan centers. All three hospitals are in the process of enlargement. Berwick will add 54 to its present 92 beds and the Geisinger 100 to its present 307 beds, plus a thirteen room operating suite and additional facilities. There will be a substantial but as yet undetermined addition to the 99 beds at Bloomsburg.

Fire Protection is provided for the County by 28 volunteer chartered fire companies. All may, and most do, receive aid from their political districts respectively: housing, equipment, and supplies. Besides fire personnel, each company has a unit of fire police for the purpose of protecting property and directing traffic, sworn in for these purposes by proper authorities. Fire police are subject, in addition, to fire fighting on call of the chief. The companies, including the fire police, have a military type organization with a chain of command under the fire chief. The fire chief is elected by members of the fire department. By custom, all districts and companies, including those outside the county, will aid in emergencies beyond the capacity of an individual company or district. Calls for help go through the local chief for approval. The

Civil Defense organizes stand-by alerts among neighboring districts or companies in such situations.

Columbia County's fire protection rests in these 28 volunteer fire companies: Beaver, Benton, Berwick (Defender, Eagles, Ranger, Reliance, West Branch), Bloomsburg (Friendship, Liberty, Rescue, Winona), Buckhorn, Catawissa, Centralia, Espy, Light Street, Lime Ridge, Locust Dale, Main Township, Mifflin Township, Millville, Montour, North Mountain, Orangeville, Summerhill, Valley Chemical (Numidia), Wilburton: No. 1, Wilburton: No. 2.

Next time your local fire company tries to raise money in order that it may better protect your life and property, at the risk of its members, be sure to help it generously.

Ambulance — Organizations make such service available to all parts of the county. Two types of organizations are in effect. In Berwick and Bloomsburg members join the organization for a modest fee. The pooled resources make possible the purchase of ambulances and equipment. Emergency calls to members are covered on a fee per call basis. In the other type, of which Catawissa is an example, a sponsoring organization, the Lions Club in this case, raises funds and secures the equipment. Emergency calls are then on a fee per call basis for all.

Ambulance organizations: Benton, Berwick, Bloomsburg, Catawissa, Millville. Conyngham and Centralia have facilities available in nearby Ashland and Mt. Carmel. Your chamber of commerce, nearest hospital, or town or borough police department, will aid you with detailed information.

Red Cross — Two Red Cross Chapters, Berwick and Bloomsburg, function for most of Columbia County. The National Red Cross, operating under Federal Charter, is a voluntary organization of wide popular support. It charts the local chapters. Conyngham and Centralia come under the Shamokin-Mt. Carmel chapter. Berwick covers neighboring parts of Luzerne County.

In all natural disasters and emergencies, the Red Cross takes the initiative in organizing relief and aid. There is a high degree of cooperation with the Civil Defense.

Personnel are trained in first aid, in home nursing, in life saving, and to give instruction in such activities.

All chapters collect and process blood for the Blood Bank, which is located at a central place, for our region, at Wilkes-Barre. "Priority One" means 90% or more of the quota has been secured. In this priority the needs of military hospitals, veterans hospitals, and then civilian hospitals will be met. In lower priorities civilian hospitals' needs will be met to the extent possible, after which requests will be channelled through the local chapter for special donors.

First aid and lost children facilities are provided at most gatherings.

A primary responsibility of the chapters is to render service by counselling to persons in emergencies.

The Junior Red Cross program enlists the aid of school children through modest contributions in building up funds for children in disaster situations, U.S. or foreign, school supplies and library books. The Junior Red Cross has a program for international student exchanges of scrap books, music albums, and art albums.

College students aid blood donor recruitment.

The Columbia County Unit of Civil Defense is in the Eastern Area of Pennsylvania, part of a nationwide Civil Defense Organization. The Board of County Commissioners, as authorized by act of the State Legislature with supporting Federal legislation, is responsible for Civil Defense in each county. This Board appoints, subject to the Governor's approval, a County Director. He in turn appoints a director for each political subdivision. Their functions include safeguarding lives and protecting property in all types of disasters, with special emphasis on perils of atomic attack.

Services and resources provided: A county-wide radio communication system is operated from Berwick and Bloomsburg as centers. Two hundred trained men as auxiliary civil police are on call. RACES, an organization of licensed amateur radio operators, are alert to supply communication in case of breakdown of other channels. First aid training has been given to over 200 persons with over 150 young women trained for home nursing. In general, Federal matching funds are joined with those of the State and County to cover certain expenses, especially equipment. The services are entirely voluntary.

First Aid resources include: One complete first aid unit with all types of bandages, compresses, and sanitary cups; all types of antiseptics and antibiotics regularly replaced to avoid potency decline; four 200-bed emergency hospital units, three in Bloomsburg, one in Berwick, equipped completely for prompt operation; medical and surgical equipment; antiseptics and antibiotics with potency maintained by continuous replacement, and standby electric generators. "The doctor won't even need to bring his stethoscope.")

Municipal Directories, which are frequently revised, are available for the greater Berwick and greater Bloomsburg areas. Rural routes are included. Berwick, in addition, includes Salem Township and Nescopeck, while Catawissa is covered by the Bloomsburg volume.

Chambers of Commerce — The greater Berwick area includes, in general, the Berwick industry and shopping area; the one for Bloomsburg, Catawissa and RD areas in addition to Bloomsburg; Orangeville.

Columbia Counties Who Have Gained More Than Local Distinction

MOSES VANCAMPEN, scout and frontier leader of ranger forces guarding the Susquehanna frontiers during the Revolution.

CHARLES ROLLIN BUCKALEW, State Senator, 1858-1861; United States Minister to Ecuador, 1861-1863; United States Senator, 1863-1869.

WILLIAM HARTMAN WOODIN, 1868-1934, Prominent manufacturer at Berwick; Secretary of Treasury under Franklin D. Roosevelt.

DR. GEORGE EDWARD PFAHLER, 1874-1957. Recognized internationally as the pioneer and leader in radium therapy; named internationally as one of the world's five pioneers in radiology.

DR. FRANK CHARLES LAUBACH, 1884- . Missionary, educator, preacher. Missionary activities include the co-authorship of primers for illiterate adults in over 165 languages, bringing literacy to millions by the plan of "each one teach one."

DR. JOHN EDWIN BAKELESS, 1894- . Colonel, United Army, res., ret., University teacher, journalist, author, editor, in fields of literature, history, biography, economics, public affairs.

Some of Columbia County's Names: Indian Names — Briar Creek, stream, township, and borough. This form, or Green Briar, appears in earliest records suggesting it is a translation of the Indian name. Catawissa borough, at first Hughesburg, from settler who laid out town, superseded by Indian name. The weight of evidence is that this name is derived from several Indian dialects always meaning "pure water." Stream and township also so named. Fishing Creek, stream and township, translation of Delaware Indian name, Namescesespong. Roaring Creek, stream and township, mentioned in very early records, presumed to be translation of the Indian Popeme-tung.

Espy, from Josiah Espy; Eversgrove, from Jacob Ever; Jerseytown, settlers from New Jersey; Orange township and Orangeville from settlers from Orange County, New York, and Orange, New Jersey (there is no Orange County, N.J.); Rohrsburg, from Frederick Rohr, a Prussian veteran of the Napoleonic Wars.

Famous Persons — Presidents Cleveland, Jackson, and Madison townships. Others: Benton borough and township, Senator Thomas Hart Benton; Conyngham township, from President Judge John Nesbit Conyngham; Huntington creek and mountain from Samuel Huntington (see Scenic Tour 1, p. 15); Jamison City from Colonel township, from Governor Thomas Mifflin; Franklin township, from famous statesman, scientist, author and printer, Benjamin Franklin.

Scenery — Greenwood, Mt. Pleasant townships and Stillwater borough.

Reminiscent of Timber Resources — Hemlock township and stream and Pine Summit, Pine Creek and Township.

River rounding bend at mouth of Fishing Creek.





River entering Catawissa Narrows at Rupert.

Pennsylvania State Highway Commission—Columbia County is a part of Highway Engineering District No. 31, with headquarters at Montoursville. The headquarters in Bloomsburg is for maintenance and snow removal on the 553 miles of state highways in our County. Minor construction on these roads, including bridges, is performed in the slack summer months. The work force of 120 laborers, headed by a local superintendent, is aided by a staff of three assistants and an office force of five. When a road is adopted by an act of legislature, it is given a number and comes under the jurisdiction of this department.

Department of Forests and Waters, of Pennsylvania, Wyoming District, No. 20, embraces Columbia, Montour, and Northumberland Counties, along with the Western Section of Luzerne and the Muncy Valley section of Lycoming. The District Office is in Bloomsburg and is headed by a District Forester. Services: Fire protection, 10 fire towers, those of Catawissa and Aristes in Columbia County; administers state forest lands, none in Columbia; administers State Parks, none in Columbia but Ricketts Glen, Luzerne, and Dry Run and World's End, Sullivan, are nearby. The Waters Division is centered at Harrisburg.

The Columbia County Child Welfare Services are headed by an Acting Director chosen by the County Commissioners on recommendations of the State Secretary of Welfare under Civil Service regulations.

The Acting Director is assisted by two case workers appointed by the County Commissioners on recommendations of the Acting Director. The Acting Director is assisted by an advisory board appointed by the County Commissioners after nomination by a nominating committee of the Board. The services rendered: (1) Placement of children in foster homes. (2) Protective services to children in sub-standard home conditions. (3) Services to unmarried mothers. (4) Child adoption services. (5) Institutional placements for retarded, delinquent, and handicapped children. Board, medical, and dental care, and also clothes may be supplied. Financing is from the County Institution District with State reimbursement. The State pays salary of the Acting Director, and the Institution District pays the caseworker with 50% State reimbursement.

The Columbia County Board of Assistance is made up of seven unpaid laymen, appointed by the Governor under Pennsylvania law. It prepares estimates which are reported for approval to the State Secretary of Public Welfare. The Board appoints, under Civil Service regulations, a Director to administer the program. He dispenses relief following Board decisions and in compliance with State law. Relief is dispensed from State funds matched in some cases with Federal funds in the following classes:

1. Old Age Assistance to needy Pennsylvania residents over 65.
2. Pensions to those with major or total blindness.
3. Aid to dependent children lacking one or both parents from divorce, death, or other cause.
4. Aid to those totally, permanently disabled.
5. General assistance to needy unemployed employables and their families.

The County's main office is in Bloomsburg with application offices in Berwick and Centralia.

The Bloomsburg Fair, officially the Columbia County Agricultural, Horticultural, and Mechanical Association, in its century and more of life, has come to be one of the greatest fairs in the State.

During the annual Fair Week, beginning in the last days of September, a quarter of a million people are in attendance. Exhibits appropriate to the official name, as well as school and hobby interests, reach uniformly high standards. Races attract those of sporting interest and a wide spectrum of entertainment is always topped with outstanding talent at the evening shows.

Roaring Creek Rapids and Falls





View in Fishing Creek Township.

(SCENIC TOURS Continued from page 15)

North from Jonestown via 19,069, or a variety of other interesting roads, including those in neighboring Luzerne County, to Red Rock, Luzerne County.

Side trips may be made: to magnificent Ricketts Glen State Park; n. to Central and Jamison City; route 16, Elk Grove, Nordmont, LaPorte and to state park at World's End, Sullivan County.

HOTEL MAGEE — Beautifully decorated rooms with television and air-conditioning. Children free.

Continuing, s. tracing the valley of Fishing Creek; Benton; thence to Stillwater, where stands a Theodore Burr covered bridge, Columbia County's memorial to covered bridges; Forks; Orangeville; Knob Mountain; Light Street, which is near site of Fort Wheeler, a frontier Revolutionary fort; across Turkey Hill, actually part of Montour Ridge and location of extensive nineteenth century iron mining; past cliffs of red rocks, the Bloomsburg red shale; into Bloomsburg, county seat with courthouse; turn s. at fountain and Civil War Monument; down Market Street to river, left at this road past Bloomsburg Town Park, swimming pool, skating area; intersection with Rt. 242 at river bridge and airport; n., with alternative (a) US Rt. 11 which takes you past the old limestone quarries, some still active, or (b) old Berwick road through villages reminiscent of old canal days, Espy; Almedia; Lime Ridge, site of Revolutionary Fort Jenkins; Briar Creek; and Berwick.

HOTEL BERWICK — So different in every way. . . Here you will find hospitality, charm and convenience . . . inexpensively. You will be agreeably surprised how homelike a hotel can be.

TRIP 2. North Central area: Alternative trips are (a) Bloomsburg—Main Street at Iron, turn n. on 42 then after crossing creek Leg. Rt. 19,029 to Greenwood Valley to Route 254, this route e. to Rohrsburg, or (b) Bloomsburg to Orangeville on 339, then follow signs to Rohrsburg; n. to junction of Leg. Rt. 19,060; Waller; turn left, Leg. Rt. 19,061 down Little Fishing Creek Valley through

(Continued on next page)

The Columbia County Work Unit of the U.S. Soil Conservation Service is headed by a Work Unit Conservationist appointed by the Pennsylvania State Conservation Service under Civil Service regulations. The office was established in 1950 and is located in the Court House. The office provides technical and engineering assistance for members of the Columbia County Soil Conservation District. This service: 1) supplies county soil surveys; 2) assists district members of the Soil Conservation District in developing long range conservation of land resources appropriate to the soil characteristics along with factors of slope and drainage; 3) assists farmer members in the establishment and carrying through of such plans.

The Columbia County Conservation District has 750 members out of the 1,510 farmers eligible. The members' farms combined make up 67,500 acres, or about 50% of the available acreage. National figures show that in every year since 1945 the gross income of conservation farmers has increased, whereas the income of conventional farmers reached a peak in 1951 and has decreased ever since. In 1945 4% of the farmers in this county had basic conservation plans; in 1954 the number had risen to 25%. These farmers in the 25% produced 45% of our gross agricultural output.

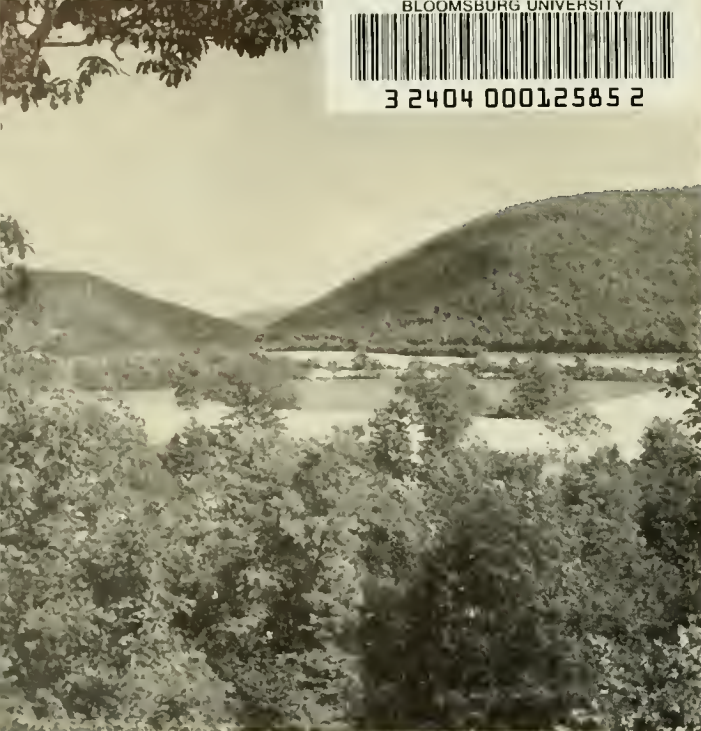
Columbia County Agriculture Stabilization and Conservation Office is set up under the United States Department of Agriculture and is located in Bloomsburg. It encourages programs for agricultural conservation by promoting good practices and administers the conservation reserve (soil bank) with the production adjustments as to wheat allotments on permitted acreages.

Established farmers in the County compose the Conservation Committee, which in turn chooses, under Federal Civil Service rules, the Office Manager. He also reports to the Farmers' Field Man in the United States Department of Agriculture.

Agricultural and Home Economics Extension Office. The Agricultural and Home Economics Extension Service maintains an office for the County in Bloomsburg with a staff of five, headed by the County Agricultural Agent and the Home Extension Economist. All are employees of the Pennsylvania State University. Office expenses are paid by the County Commissioners. The fundamental function of the office is to bring the findings of research to the farms and home. Advice is made available on livestock feeding, farm and garden culture, home management, nutrition, and health.

View from Montour Ridge, looking up Susquehanna River.





Mainville Gap

(SCENIC TOURS Continued from page 19)

Iola, Millville. The Millville to Bloomsburg road was not constructed until 1856: to Eysersgrove, Mordansville, Bloomsburg. The traveler might note before entering Bloomsburg the extensive slag heap on outskirts, reminiscent of once extensive iron industry.

TRIP 3. It was in 1817 that the stage route, Bloomsburg to Muncy going through Buckhorn, Jerseytown, Whitehall, Exchange was established. The present day driver may go from Market Square, Bloomsburg w. to concrete bridge and junction with Route 44 following Hemlock creek, past the old iron workings through Buckhorn and Jerseytown, intersection of Leg. Rt. 19,049, right to the n. junction of Leg. Rt. 19,050, turn right to Eysersgrove following Route 42 s. to intersection with Leg. Rt. 19,026, crossing the covered bridge, turn left to continue down valleys of Little, then Big Fishing Creek to Fernville and Bloomsburg.

Side Trips. Arrive at Red Mill; left to WHLM broadcasting towers; right to Magee Outlook, with picnic facilities and spring water; continue to Leg. Rt. 19,027, further evidences of old iron workings; Leg. Rt. 19,027 to Danville; return by old Danville road, see current limestone operations.

TRIP 4. *Western tour:* Leave Bloomsburg, Market square, w. on Route 11 (alternative just beyond is Route 42 where you turn right at fork for old Danville road to Danville). In Danville, at Mill Street, turn left, s. to river, left follow n. side of river noting old canal remains; continuing to Catawissa, south-east on Second Street, then River Road, there a foot passage will lead to "Lover's Leap" bluff. Continue n. on 42 past Catawissa's Great Stone Face, use right fork at Rupert to cross covered bridge, the longest Burr arch span in county and region. Alternative: turn left on River Road to pass Boone's dam and old Boone homestead to Route 11, or continue straight on River

Road from Rupert Bridge, past old aqueduct mill, the "Point," junction of Fishing Creek with river, latitude 41° N., up this road, past the restored McClure Homestead and site of Revolutionary Fort McClure, Bloomsburg Disposal Plant, Town Park, foot of Market Street, Bloomsburg, right to Market Square.

HOTEL MAGEE—Noted for excellent food. Smorgasbord Luncheon, Tuesday through Friday, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., \$1.25. We feature from our farms Black Angus Beef, Turkeys, Chicken.

TRIP 5. *South-western tour:* Start Catawissa, s. on Route 242, past Catawissa creek, right on Leg. Rt. 19,013, right Leg. Rt. 19,012, Leg. Rt. 19,011 to covered bridge at mouth of Roaring Creek — lovely river falls, rapids, and gorge, these latter probably giving the stream its name, Popemetunk or Roaring Creek. Continue sharp left Leg. Rt. 47,001 in neighboring Montour County, re-enter Columbia County near North Branch Roaring Creek, via Rt. 242 to Catawissa, or on valley roads to Slabtown, left via Rt. 42 to Catawissa.

TRIP 6. *Bear Gap Tour:* Leaving Catawissa, s. on Route 242, through neighboring Northumberland, to Bear Gap, over Big Mountain to Natalie, Mt. Carmel, then back into nearby Columbia County. Alternatives: numerous rewarding side roads to Bear Gap: From Mt. Carmel, either northerly via Leg. Rt. 19,055 to Aristes, or southerly via U.S. Route 122 to Centralia, n. on Route 42 to Aristes, impressive open pit coal workings either way: through Brush Valley, note the impounding lakes of Shamokin Water Co., Route 42 cross Little Mountain to Roaring Creek Valley to Catawissa.

Side Trip. At Numidia go e. on Leg. Rt. 19,006 to Newlin, turn sharp left (north to Slabtown), passing Roaring Creek Old Friends Log Meeting House, one of the oldest

Huntington Mountain and Valley





Stillwater Covered Bridge, preserved as a memorial to covered bridges under the sponsorship of the Columbia County Historical Society with the aid of the Columbia County Commissioners.

log structures in the United States; Catawissa via Route 42. In Catawissa, old Friends Meeting House.

TRIP 7. *Old Reading Road tour*: Start Catawissa, originally "Hughesburg," Route 1789 to Mahanoy Creek and county line of what was formerly Berks county, south on Route 42, within three miles left on road marked to Shenandoah which takes you to Ringtown, then w. to Aristes, Route 42 through Brush Valley and across Little Mountain, then same as Trip 6. or turn e. (right) to Mill Grove, then Catawissa road to Slabtown, and Catawissa.

TRIP 8. *Catawissa Creek tour*: Catawissa, e. to Mainville via Leg Rt. 19,014 n. of creek or Leg. Rt. 19,021 s. of creek: Route 44 to junction with Leg. Rt. 19,015. Leg. Rts. 19,015 and 19,016 take one around McCauley's Mountain, using either fork and returning by other, from Zion's Grove in neighboring Schuylkill County, old coal workings.

TRIP 9. *Southeast from Bloomsburg*: From Bloomsburg s. to crest of River Hill. Rt. 19,020 to Mifflinville (and Nescopeek) across river from Berwick, return via Leg. Rt. 19,094, Hetlerville, with a choice of roads to Mainville and 44 to Bloomsburg.

Trolley Cars — In 1902 Bloomsburg and Berwick were connected by an electric railway, trolley car. Soon Catawissa, Danville, Riverside, and Nescopeek were joined by lines. All had yielded to bus traffic by 1926.

The Catawissa trolley line used the piers of the old canal aqueduct in crossing Fishing Creek at Rupert.

The Berwick American Car and Foundry Company has been noted for important advances in railroad rolling equipment: all steel cars in 1902, New York City subway cars, streamlined passenger trains. Currently the plant is working on devices to carry highway freight trailer equipment.

At the height of the canal operations in the late 1800's, Espy was an important canal boat building and canal boat repairing center.

For pupil expenditure in public — Elementary amount first, Secondary amount second: Benton Joint \$208 and \$345, Berwick \$302, Bloomsburg Area \$329 and \$35, and \$334, Millville \$218 and \$355, Southern \$209 and \$282.

Veterans Affairs — Headed by director. Office at Court House. Aids veterans in making claims for themselves or their dependents and claims for emergency aid from State and Federal funds. Distributes grave markers. Aids Memorial and Veterans' Day programs, for which County Commissioners make appropriations.

FURTHER READING AND REFERENCE

BATTLE, J. H., *History of Columbia and Montour Counties, Pennsylvania*. This is a standard work up to the date of publication, 1887. It is really several books in one, separately paged: a history of Pennsylvania, a history of Columbia County, a history of families in Columbia County, and similar histories of Montour County.

BEERS, J. H. & Co., pub., *History of Columbia and Montour Counties, Pennsylvania*. 2 vols. 1915. A standard work.

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DEATERICK, ELINOR S., *The Pennsylvania Citizen*.

TANGER, ALDERFER, AND McGEARY, *Pennsylvania Government, State and Local*.

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Recent pamphlet publications of the Columbia County Historical society: RHOADS, *The North Branch Canal*; BARTON, *The Susquehanna Shad*.

Acknowledgments — Assistance in preparation of graphic charts: Dale A. Davenport and Raymond D. Letterman, students; teacher, John J. Mattie, Bloomsburg High School. Typing and editing assistance, Frances E. Blatch. The Pennsylvania State Library and local libraries; many officials in the Pennsylvania Department of Internal Affairs, and others in county, borough, town, and township offices, all too numerous to mention individually, have been unfailingly helpful and cooperative. Valued help from others not specifically named is also gratefully acknowledged. Diligent effort has been made by the author to avoid errors of any kind. He takes full responsibility for any that may be present.

Composition and printing, Keystone Publishing Co., Berwick, Pennsylvania.

Picture Credits — Berwick Hospital, p. 1. Approaching Berwick, p. 14. Kalbach Studio, Berwick, Pa. Columbia County Court House, front cover montage, Court Room, p. 7. Dobyns Studio, Bloomsburg. Much of photographic processing by this studio. Contour strips, p. 9, U.S. Soil Conservation Service. Remaining photographs by author.

CORRECTION

(Map, page 6)

Mt. Carmel boundaries do *not* touch county boundaries.

Concealed gorge, south branch of Roaring Creek, Cleveland Township.





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